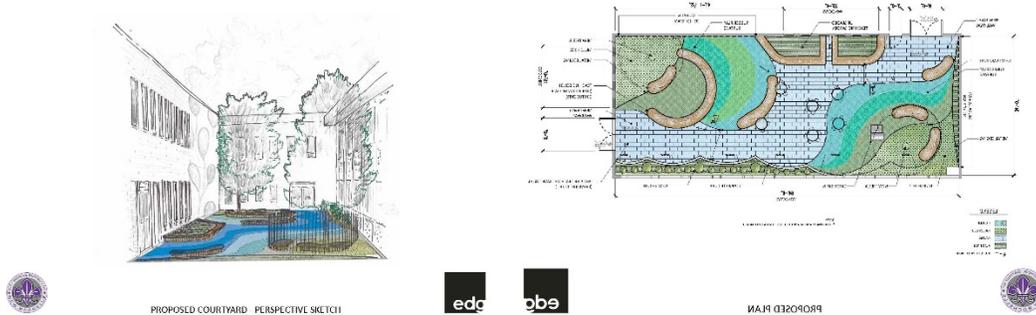


## NEW ROCHELLE'S WILLIAM B. WARD SCHOOL TO CREATE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

*This project will allow students outside for active learning and enhanced mental and physical health!*



New Rochelle, NY, May 23, 2021- In Fall 2019 a group of William B. Ward teachers, principal, Franco Miele, along with the PTA realized they had a special, unused space that could be an ideal outdoor classroom. Soon after the right plan and funding started to take shape. As we learned to navigate a school year during a pandemic and explore safe ways to get the children back in the building, this project became a priority.

The idea is to renovate a vacant, enclosed courtyard to provide a safe, new, and engaging area to get more students outside during the long school day. Whether for a science project, group work, story time or just to get some fresh air during the class day. The expansion will provide another 950 square feet to the 1,000+ of students who attend Westchester County's largest elementary school.

Over \$100,000 in planning and design has already been generously contributed through in-kind donations from Ward parent, Anthony Stasio. Another \$100,000 is needed for the material and labor to get the project completed. The PTA is asking community members to be a part of the Outdoor classroom legacy through sponsorship of bricks, benches and tables. Donations can be made at [teamward.memberhub.store](https://teamward.memberhub.store)

The proposal, which was outlined at a PTA meeting on Earth Day, includes customized benches and seats, rubber turf flooring, planting areas, trees, a bookshelf/library area, and a special walkway with sponsored bricks featuring the names of donors. Construction is to begin at the end of June when school ends. Once developed, there will be an opportunity for a local artist to paint a mural that will add another personalized touch to this unique space.

*"The outdoor classroom will be an invaluable resource for the entire student body. It is a space that will provide a unique learning experience across all subjects, highlighting STEM, literature and the arts."*

- Franco Miele, Principal

Donations can be made at [teamward.memberhub.store](https://teamward.memberhub.store). For more information about the project, please contact Mariana Coelho Adams and Erica Vinelli, PTA Presidents at [president@wardpta.com](mailto:president@wardpta.com).

### ***ABOUT WILLIAM B. WARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – From School Handbook***

*William B. Ward Elementary School is a wonderfully diverse and vibrant elementary school. We strive to provide a nurturing and safe learning environment that not only develops a child's mind but develops the whole child as well. We teach and demonstrate respect for each other and the value of our cultural diversity. Responsibility and positive behaviors are fostered and strengthened here. At Ward, students are encouraged to become lifelong learners and constructive members of our community.*